

VZCZCXRO5558
OO RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHUP #0039 0131220
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 131220Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3788
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0230
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 0078
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0037
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0093
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0155
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0146
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0149
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0677
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0274
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 000039

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR FO, EUR/CE, EUR/ERA, EEB/FO; PLEASE PASS
TO NSC FOR ADAM STERLING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2014
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HU](#)
SUBJECT: REBUTTING EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE NABUCCO SUMMIT

REF: USEU 36

Classified By: P/E COUNSELOR ERIC V. GAUDIOSI; REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

11. (U) This is an action message. Please see paras 5 and 6
for action request.

NO CONFLICT OVER NABUCCO IN BUDAPEST

12. (SBU) Contrary to assertions made by USEU's contacts on
the Commission, we wish to be categorical in stating that the
upcoming Nabucco Summit in Budapest enjoys broad
multi-partisan support here in Hungary.

13. (C) It has done so from its inception, and that consensus
has grown broader and deeper throughout the Russian gas
shutoff. In a January 12 meeting with Ambassador Foley,
Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Zsolt Nemeth)
a consistent critic of the Gyurcsany government) expressly
endorsed the conference as an opportunity for the EU to move
forward on diversification. "This is our 9/11 moment,"
Nemeth concluded, emphasizing the priority) and the
opportunity) to recognize the magnitude of the strategic
challenge and to move forward on Nabucco as means to enhance
Europe's energy security. We believe Nemeth speaks
authoritatively for the opposition here, and that FIDESZ will
continue to support the Summit as a way to press the
Gyurcsany government to make good on its stated commitment to
Nabucco.

PERSONALITY CONFLICT IN BRUSSELS?

14. (C) According to GoH Special Nabucco Envoy Bayer's staff,
the urban legend of domestic political division over the
Nabucco Summit begins with Van Aartsen's staff. (Note:
Hungarian officials have long been critical of Van Aartsen's
performance, and are increasingly unimpressed with Piebalgs'
as well. End Note.) They believe that the story is also
largely limited to Van Aartsen's staff, and continue to
express confidence that Barroso and/or Solana will be here
for the Summit, joining senior representatives from supplier
nations as well as Nabucco consortium members.

SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON

¶5. (C) Nevertheless, we hope that the Department and all interested posts will engage actively to prevent further perpetuation of the assertion that the Nabucco Summit is a source of domestic political discord. It is not. Indeed, from our vantage point on the ground, it is one of the few areas of consensus.

¶6. (C) We also hope that the Department will be able to move quickly to finalize its decision regarding the attendance of a U.S. delegation. Announcement of senior representation at the upcoming Summit will be the most effective way to rebut questions concerning the event.

Foley